



Bristol Bay Area
Health Corporation
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Bristol Bay Area
Health Corporation is
a tribal organization
representing 34
villages in
Southwest Alaska

January 12, 2000

Roy S. Matsuno
Tribal Administrator
Ugashik Traditional Village
206 E. Fireweed, #204
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Roy:

The Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation is supportive of its member villages' efforts to improve their infrastructure, particularly if it is health and safety related. We believe this should be viewed holistically, and include all forms of transportation as well as all services, necessary for the community to meet its needs.

We have preliminarily reviewed the "Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan" and its "Description of Alternatives Technical Memorandum" dated August 1999, and find that they provide a good background of needs for most of the "organized" borough parts of Bristol Bay. They list the "Alaska Peninsula Roadway System" (northern portion) and (southern portion) as "critical missing on underserved roadway links" and will "retain" these for further study and/or funding. This is good.

Our board at this time has not prioritized any of our regions transportation plans as have some other entities within the region. However, we are on record in support of 5,000 foot, lighted and where indicated or needed, runways with a cross strip with a width greater than 60 feet (preferably 75 feet), maintenance shop, (that can be heated and double as a medivac waiting area, as needed) adequate equipment to maintain or do snow removal, and a good access road, for safe medivac services.

As you know since we do not do surgery at our Kanakanak Hospital, we have to transport serious patients to Anchorage. To do so, we have determined a pressurized twin engine aircraft is the preferred aircraft. This aircraft requires an airstrip in the 5,000 foot range (think of it as a one mile road to anywhere in the world with minimal maintenance and up-keep) for safety reasons. A fast, safe, pressurized aircraft with trained and properly equipped staff provide the best chance for patients to survive when serious medical complications occur.

Roy, specific to your "Trans Peninsula Road Project", I can personally see where these "roadway links" can help offer good options between villages and might allow for development of greater improved hub airports i.e. Port Heiden and Chignik (Metrofania Airport) in lieu of several inadequate small ones. I suppose because the non-borough villages are all independent entities there is no western or northern road projects.

To *promote* health
with competence,
a *caring* attitude &
cultural sensitivity

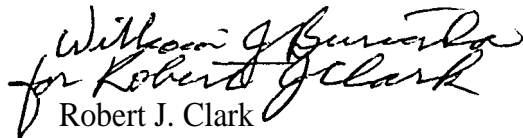
Aleknagik
Chignik Bay
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clark's Point
Dillingham
Egegik
Ekuak
Ekwok
Goodnews Bay
Igiugig
Iliamna
Ivanof Bay
Kanatak
King Salmon
Kokhanok
Koliganek
Levelock
Manokotak
Naknek
New Stuyahok
Newhalen
Nondalton
Olsonville
Pedro Bay
Perryville
Pilot Point
Platinum
Port Heiden
Portage Creek
South Naknek
Togiak
Twin Hills
Ugashik

In any event, the cost and maintenance projections are very high, and if the choice were made of airports over roads, I'm not sure what the prioritized vote might be. Hopefully, we don't continue to have the snowfall/drifts and cold weather we have had this year too, as it is rapidly depleting the limited operations and maintenance funds.

It is always good to visit with you even if briefly as we did at the BBNC Leadership Conference and a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family. Good luck in your pursuit of the much needed infrastructure for your village and that of your neighboring villages.

Sincerely,

BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION


Robert J. Clark
President/Chief Executive Officer

c: BBAHC Board of Directors
Bristol Bay Native Association
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
ADOTPF